

The night of the great debate - Rotary's 2024 Youth Speaks Competition

Shaftesbury Rotary held the local heats of the Youth Speaks Competition on 08.02.2024.

There was lively debate from the students. We had students from Shaftesbury School, The Blandford School and King Arthur's School taking part. The student did an excellent job of presenting their arguments, for and against their chosen topics.

The winning team in the intermediate competition were Chloe Duke, Olivia Calverley and Margaret Jones from Shaftesbury School whose topic was Is AI positive or negative? The winning team in the senior competition were Joseph Young, Arthur Wilson and Max Stenner from The Blandford School whose topic was We should abolish the monarchy.

The runners-up team for the intermediate competition were Leo Westlake, Dylan Wild and Finley Arnold from King Arthur's School. Their topic was Discussing the Pros and Cons of the Pandemic. The runners-up team for the senior competition were Olivia Pretlove, Suden Uysal and Isobel Lulham from Shaftesbury School. Their topic was Is incarceration beneficial?

The students were judged by Teacher Rachael Gale from Williams Barnes Primary School, Simon Hoare MP and Matthew Billingsley from Rutters Solicitor. They had to field questions from Virginia Edwyn-Jones. We'd like to express our huge thanks to the judges, the questioner, Shaftesbury School for hosting, Clive Harris for the delicious buffet and the hard work by all the teachers and students who participated.